

Received 1/11/12  
via US Mail

January 9, 2012

Dear State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee,

Prior to your meeting on Friday, January 13, 2012, you may want to request documents pertaining to the Montana DPHHS, Health and Community Services Division, Request For Proposals (RFP) for the Family Economic Security (FES) funding for **RFP# 1115096MG-Family Economic Security Interim-Tribal Governments project** proposal submissions and compare them. *You may want the outcome reports from the funded project for 2010. You may want to request information directly from the tribes on the three reservations if and how they were served in 2010 and 2011.*

*A review of the FES Tribal funding will reveal services being eliminated to the Flathead Reservation, Home to the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes for more than just the interim project of six months, but entirely. Secondly, there is an equipped green training center without job training funds in North Central Montana serving multiple reservations.*

The green training center project in Havre was funded for the green construction remodeling by Native Americans who were paid OJT wages. Then DPHHS left the training facility without funding for job training services and awarded the money for on-line and financial literacy training in Great Falls. My understanding is Opportunity Link invested their own funds to complete the training center and provided job training to Native Americans with Peaks who moved their equipment to the center in Havre from Columbia Falls.

The funded FES interim proposal was extended beyond the six months *without* an RFP solicitation and consultation, cooperation and collaboration with all Montana Tribal Governments as required by law and without services to CSKT.

Attached are:

- State Tribal Relations Policy
- Review of DPHHS FES Tribal Governments Collaboration projects funded from 2009-2012 with questions you may want to consider.
- Excerpt from RFP#1115096MG DPHHS Family Economic Security (FES) Interim project, specifically 01/01/11-06/30/11 inclusive service term.

Thank you for taking time to review these important services that is directly related to job creation and economic development on or near reservations.

Regards,

  
Ruby Eagle Feathers  
Flathead Reservation

CC: Interested Parties

**MT DPHHS—Family Economic Security (FES)**  
**Tribal Government Collaboration Projects 2009-2012**

- 1-How can DPHHS/FES Branch exclude the Service Delivery Area of the Flathead Reservation home to the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes in the awarding of FES funds when they were original partners?
- 2-How can DPHHS/HCSO extend a "term limited" contract that ended June 30, 2011 with Rural Dynamics, Inc. without a soliciting by RFP for services to Native Americans and without Montana Tribal Governments Collaborations as per State Law?
- 3-Did DPHHS/HCSO follow the OMB Circulars and State requirements by providing a Request For Proposal for FES funds in a fair and equitable manner as outlined in MCA Title 49 for all MT Tribes?
- 4-Does the award of the FES funds fit with the Governor's commitment and continued efforts to provide open communication and consultation with the Tribal Governments?
- 5-Did RDI provide services to tribal members of Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy Reservations as agreed by their Tribal Governments as per 2010 FES award? Outcomes? Does on-line training cost the same as high wage, high demand paid OJT green construction trades training?

**July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010-FES Tribal Governments Collaboration**

- FES Funding: RFP # 0910017 Tribal Government Collaboration
- Service Delivery Area-Tribal Government Collaboration with Blackfeet, Flathead, Fort Belknap & Rocky Boy Reservations
- Funding Amount: \$341,883  
High Wage, High Demand Occupations with paid on-the-job training wages, green energy, college credit & coordination with tribal colleges to assist with the *Indian Count* projects, financial skills with job placement w/contractors, unions & tribes & continual retention services.
- Contractor: Montana Peaks, Inc. with four Montana Indian Reservations partners above.

**July & August 2010-Opportunity Lin, Inc.-Continuation FES Tribal Governments Collaboration**

- FES Funding: Tribal Government Collaboration (*One-time, 60 day project*)
- Service Delivery Area: Blackfeet, Fort Belknap & Rocky Boy Reservations (Flathead Reservation was not included because Opportunity Link was completing a training that was a continuance in Havre of the Green project listed above.)
- Funding Amount: \$66,169.  
High Wage, High Demand Occupations with paid on-the-job training wages, college credit, green energy, financial skills including job placements and retention services.
- Contractor: Opportunity Link with mandatory partnerships above & below.
- Mandatory Partnerships: Opportunity Link's has established partnerships in the eleven surrounding North Central counties, with Tribal Governments and with the Tribal Colleges and MSU Northern MT College. CSKT excluded from services for short-term project completion of green training center.

**Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec 2010—NO FES TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS projects funded.**

The "Green" Havre Training Center was completed, full equipped July 2010 and left without any FES Tribal Governments funding to provide training to Native Americans. How many people could have been trained? Does it make sense to fund the training of a green training center and leave the center without training services?

**January-June 2011 (Specifically a 6 month FES contract with no continuance clause, 1/1/11-6/30/11)**  
**Contract renewed July 1, 2011 for \$341,883 without a required RFP solicitation and without regard to the Statutory Principles of State-Tribal Relations law and exclusion of CSKT from services.**

- RFP # 1115096MG Family Economic Security-Tribal Government Collaboration
- Service Delivery Area: Blackfeet, Fort Belknap & Rocky Boy Reservations (*Flathead Reservation was not included in this RFP even though services to them were included in the original award.*)
- Funding Amount: \$273,154-1/1/11-6/30/11
- Funding Amount-Extended Contract to RDI without RFP or consultation of Montana Tribal Governments 7/1/2011: \$341,883
- Project: On-Line Workforce & Financial Literacy Training
- FES Contract Awarded to: Rural Dynamics, Inc. Did they have the required Tribal Government agreements at submission of their proposal? Outcomes from on-line training?

**RFP# 1115096MG-Family Economic Security Interim Tribal Governments.  
Montana DPHHS, Health and Community Services Division (a part of RFP)**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PROPOSERS**

Governor Schweitzer and those in his administration firmly believe that all Montanans should have economic security for themselves and their families. Governor Schweitzer is committed to creating stable families through the development of personal, social and financial assets. The governor recognizes that strong families contribute to strong communities and an equally strong economy. It is the hope of this administration that this RFP will bring together collaborative community groups to assist Montana Families, businesses and consumers in the development of a strong economy through the economic security of families. **Term of the contract is from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011.**

**A. GOALS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The State of Montana, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Human and Community Services Division in conjunction with the office of Governor Schweitzer is seeking to contract for the delivery of: A Family Economic Security Program through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant encompassing all or a portion of the following service area: **Blackfeet, Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap Reservation areas including Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Phillips, Blaine and Chouteau Counties and outlying areas of Pondera, Teton and Toole Counties.** The goal of this proposal is to develop projects to ensure that low-income Montanans have access to Montana's economic development.

**B. General Description of Contracted Services**

This RFP is designed to improve family economic security by adding innovative services that are documented to improve financial literacy and assist in building personal assets for families.

Proposals must target the following individuals: 1) Those adults over the age of 18 who are not receiving TANF cash assistance whose household gross income is at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level and who have a minor child residing in their household (otherwise TANF-eligible); or 2) Anyone age 16—18 or up to age 19 if still in high school (receiving TANF or not) whose household gross income is at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. Proposals developing innovative services or innovative uses of current services are recommended. Outcome measures must be identified at onset (in the written proposal) and consistent data must be collected throughout the project. Upon the completion of the demonstrations, the results will be used to suggest systemic changes that will promote low-income families' engagement in Montana's economy. These target families must have demonstrated qualifications by having stable housing, health, employment and transportation and have made or are willing to make the commitment to participate voluntarily in personal, financial and economic growth through education, training or other services.

TANF funds available for this specific RFP are **\$273,154.**